

## CONSUL...TING

Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto—Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2015



"Consul...ting" is the monthly e-publication of the Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto.

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## DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATIONS IN ONTARIO AND MANITOBA

## Mexican artists and artisans liven up the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)

Mexican artists and artisans gave life and colour to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in a day of events titled "Celebrating Mexico's Day of the Dead".

On Friday, October 30, the ROM, considered one of the biggest museums in North America, received more than 5,000 visitors who had the opportunity to discover and enjoy a sample of Mexican culture.

As part of the "¡Viva México! Clothing and Culture" exhibition, open to the public since May 2015, the exhibition's curator, Chloe Sayer, launched her book *¡Viva México! Clothing and Culture*, which offers an academic introduction to the cultural field of textiles. The book contains illustrations of the vast collection of Mexican textiles kept at the ROM, and explores the evolution of both male and female dress in Mexico, as well as the wide variety of techniques used by spinners, dyers, weavers and embroiderers. At the book launch, Sayer spoke about the handicrafts using materials like cardboard, ceramic, clay and paper made by families from various Mexican states, and she presented a series of slides showing different Día de Muertos traditions.



Mexican artists Arturo and Sergio



Over 18 days, Arturo Estrada Hernández, a weaver from Santa María del Río, in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosí, dedicated to loom weaving and the creation of *rebozos*, offered Canadian audiences a display of his talent and innovation in the production of this traditional Mexican garment. For 36 years Arturo has been making *rebozos* with different threads, colours and designs, using his own process and naming them after the source of their inspiration. Currently, with the support of the San Luis Potosí government and the National Employment Service, he also gives classes to young people on how to make *rebozos*.

Another craftsman, Sergio Hernandez Martinez, a native of Metepec in the State of Mexico who has been making *papel picado* (perforated paper) artwork for 25 years, created a traditional *Altar de Muertos* notable for its colourful and lively appearance.

He also offered attendees a demonstration of his paper-cutting work with the three techniques he uses to make it: scissors, knives and chisels. The craftsman has represented his hometown in Japan, Switzerland, China and France.

The evening celebration featured performances by Mexican musical artists and groups, most of them based in Toronto and well-known to the public for their talent, such as: Jorge López's México Amigo mariachi band; the rock group Los Poetas; *bolero* singer Mamselle Ruiz; and the mariachi -jazz band The Mariachi Ghost.





## THE TRADITIONAL DAY OF THE DEAD FESTIVAL HELD AT THE HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

On November 7 and 8, as has become a tradition, the Consulate General of Mexico took part in the celebration of the Day of the Dead ("Día de Muertos") Festival held every year at the Harbourfront Centre.

The Consulate General put together an *Altar de Muertos* dedicated to Mexican painter José Clemente Orozco, which was admired by numerous visitors to whom consulate staff explained the life story of the famous muralist, as well as the meaning of the *Día de Muertos* celebration and the *Altar de Muertos*, with the support of the iconography and materials displayed in pictures placed next to the altar.

The altar featured a *calavera* (skull) decorated by Mexican-Canadian artist Lili Warren. This *calavera* is part of the exhibition the author is currently presenting at the Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre in Oakville.



Mexican artists Tiburcio Soteno Fernández and Zenen Zeferino Huervo presented their work and talent at the festival to an audience from all over the world.

The work of the craftsman Tiburcio Soteno Fernández from the Mexican town of Metepec included several pieces he had made out of clay, such as a Tree of Death in natural colours measuring 55 x 45 centimeters, and Trees of Life based on Biblical themes such as Noah's Ark and Adam and Eve. Tiburcio also gave workshops and talks with the assistance of Chloe Sayer, a British researcher specializing in Mexican popular culture and the curator of the Mexican textile exhibition "¡Viva México! Clothing and Culture", at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Meanwhile, the son jarocho music performed by Zenen Zeferino, founder of the legendary group Chuchumbé, was enjoyed by a multitude of Canadian families, who learned about the instruments used by the musician in

his songs, sang along with Zenen's encouragement to some of the most famous *sones*, and laughed at the poems which the artist dedicated to Toronto and Mexico at the event. The work of both artists promoted both the pottery produced in Metepec in the State of Mexico and tourism to that magic town, as well as to Veracruz.

Zenen also took part in the *Sones Compartidos* program, performing together with the groups Tlacuatzi, Café Con Pan and Jorge and Yuri López's México Amigo mariachi band.

Attendees also enjoyed a wide-ranging program of cultural events including film screenings and music performed by various groups of Mexican artists based in Toronto, including presentations by the dance group Ballet Folklórico Puro México in the program "Calaveras y Colores", accompanied by the singer Cecilia Guerrero; Grupo Folclórico Tonatiuh, Danza Xantolera, Mariachi Los Gallos, Trio Tlacuatzin, the México Amigo mariachi band and a screening of the film *The Book of Life* produced by Guillermo del Toro.



## DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION IN WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

On October 23 and 24, the Mexican community association in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Mex Y Can Association of Manitoba Inc., celebrated the first Day of the Dead festival to be held in that city.

The event, which was replete with Mexican colour and tradition, was attended by more than 400 people, most of whom were members of the Mexican community in Manitoba, although important government figures were also present, such as Manitoba's Minister of Multiculturalism and Literacy Flor Marcelino, and Honorary Consul James Downey, who enjoyed a performance by the Armando Ortega's Soy México folk dance company from Mexico City. The event also featured performances by Mexican groups Mariachi Ghost and Salsa Explosion Dance Company.

The festival captivated the attention of children and adults alike, with a wide range of cultural displays including a traditional *Altar de Muertos*, *calavera* decoration workshops and face-painting artists, as well as workshops in Spanish related to *Día de*



*Muertos*, given by the Winnipeg Spanish for Kids group.

During the celebration, Honorary Consul Downey and Mex Y Can President Aline Tezcucano awarded certificates of recognition on behalf of the Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto to Víctor Ramírez and Ingo Lamerz, for their work as leaders in the promotion of Mexican culture in Manitoba for more than 15 years.

The association's president commented that the event had been made possible by the

voluntary planning work of the members of the Mex Y Can board of directors, as well as the support received from the Consulate General in Toronto, the Government of Manitoba and local sponsors.





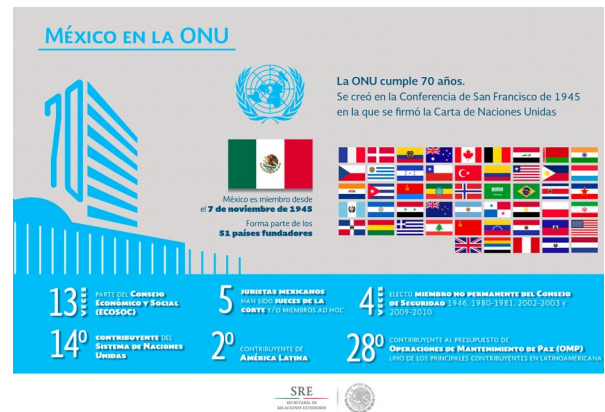
## CONSULATE GENERAL BRIEFS

President Enrique Peña Nieto congratulates Justin Trudeau, winner of the Canadian federal elections

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto called the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, Justin Trudeau, to congratulate him on his victory in the federal elections in which his party won the largest number of seats, making him the twenty-third Prime Minister of Canada.

Annual event of the Consular Corps Association (CCA)

Consul General Mauricio Toussaint, in his capacity as Dean, chaired the annual dinner of the Consular Corps Association in Toronto.

The UN celebrates 70 years since its foundation and 68 years in Mexico

## NEW TRADE &amp; INVESTMENT COMMISSIONER OF MEXICO IN TORONTO



promote and generate greater awareness of the investment environment, and the high quality products and services that Mexico has to offer.

Before his arrival to Toronto, Rodrigo held the position of Trade & Investment Commissioner of Mexico in Shanghai, China and occupied the positions of Executive Director of Investor Relations, Executive Director of Investment Projects and Project Coordinator at PROMÉXICO's headquarters in Mexico City.

Rodrigo Contreras is the Trade & Investment Commissioner of Mexico in Toronto Canada, as part of the Mexican Government Trade & Investment Promotion Agency PROMÉXICO (Ministry of Economy).

Under his responsibility is the promotion of trade and investment opportunities between Mexico and the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut, driving strategies to

Rodrigo has a degree in International Business Administration and has studies in marketing, finance, management of innovation and high-tech industrial parks management.

## ARTIST CARLOS AMORALES TAKES PART IN CULTURAL EVENTS IN TORONTO

In the context of the second working visit by the artist Carlos Amoraless to the city of Toronto and in parallel with the exhibition of his contemporary art work *Black Cloud* on display at The Power Plant Art Gallery, the artist's film works were presented at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

The films screened on October 28 at the TIFF headquarters were presented by Christine Shaw, director and guest curator of Amoraless' work at the Blackwood Gallery, who stressed that this film trilogy began with a rigorous research process, which, in addition to the infusion of the works with life and substance, places each project within a particular historical and political narrative.

The three films were enjoyed by an audience made up of people from



all over the world, who for three hours listened to a narration by Amoraless, followed by each of the following medium-length films: - *Amsterdam* (2013), *The Man Who Did All Things Forbidden* (2014), *The Eye Me Not* (2015).

## THE CASA CULTURAL MEXICANA (CCM) IN TORONTO

The Casa Cultural Mexicana (CCM) in Toronto, directed by Jorge Zarate Tristán and its general coordinator, Guadalupe Velasco, has been the site of a number of cultural events and a space open to the Mexican-Canadian community.

Notable among the activities organized by the CCM are the workshops, classes and events attended for the most part by Mexicans of all ages, promoting the participation and interaction of the Mexican-Canadian community, including:

- Mexican folk dance, Danza Mexica (Aztec dance), taekwon do, guitar, singing and Spanish language classes.
- Painting workshop, children's animated films, papier-mâché, cooking, sewing and Mexican jewellery.

- Monthly or periodic events at CCM like "El Tianguis", "La Peña Cultural Latinoamericana" and assorted annual exhibitions.

In addition, the Department of Mexican Folk Dance has participated in numerous events and festivals around Toronto, as well as music and



dance performances and plays in different countries, including:

- Mexico Kids and Dance Recital in China, June 2015.
- The Mexican Folk Ballet tour at the World Folklore Festival 2015 in Valencia, Spain.
- Mexico History and Dance event at the Mac-Millan Theatre, University of Toronto, June 2014.
- Day of the Dead festivals at the Harbourfront Centre, Carassauga Latin Festival and Global Fest Markham, for the past few years.

Facebook: [Casa Cultural](#)



## CANADIAN RIDES A BIKE TO MEXICO

Inspired by the documentary *CICLO*, about the Mexican brothers Arturo and Gustavo Martínez, who cycled from Mexico City to Toronto in 1956, Ontario resident John Murtaugh, a member of the organization Amistad Canada, decided to make the same trip, but in reverse, from Canada to San Miguel de Allende.

Mr. Murtaugh left downtown Toronto on September 15 and after 44 days of continuous cycling arrived at the offices of the Centro para Adolescentes de San Miguel de Allende (CASA).

Amistad Canada's objective is to show Canadians a way of helping Mexican organiza-



tions that operate various social and educational projects in San Miguel de Allende and its surrounding area. John's wife, Elizabeth Harris, was one of the founders of Canadians for CASA, now Amistad Canada.

In addition to riding to Mexico, one of John's goals was to raise \$25,000 to be donated to the projects undertaken by the CASA

organization in Mexico.

On his trip, Murtaugh was followed by Canadian, US and Mexican media, who thus documented his extraordinary effort and dedication.

More details at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/764094410380784/>

<http://www.amistadcanada.org/>



## SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS

### TRAVELING TO MEXICO

Canadian nationals and permanent residents of Canada do not require a visa to enter Mexico, with the exception of Canadian citizens carrying **diplomatic or official passports**.

For more information and requirements please visit:

<http://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/toronto/index.php/es/visas>

For fees and payment: <http://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/toronto/index.php/es/fees>

**Notice:** The Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto is open to the public by appointment. Please request an appointment by writing to [citas@consulmex.com](mailto:citas@consulmex.com)

### POWER OF ATTORNEY

The Consul General is empowered to act as a Mexican notary public, and is therefore able to issue powers of attorney with legal validity in Mexico. Any person or company located in Ontario or Manitoba may submit a power of attorney for the appointment of a person to act on their behalf in a lawsuit, in the administration of a business or in the purchase or sale of goods in Mexico.



Appointments must be scheduled through MEXITEL (1-877-639-4837) or online <https://mexitel.sre.gob.mx>

For more information about requirements and fees, please visit our website <http://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/toronto/index.php/en/power-of-attorney> or call 416-368-2875, ext. 237.

The Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto is open to the public by appointment.

For Mexican passports, birth certificates and powers of attorney, appointments must be requested through MEXITEL at: [https://citas.sre.gob.mx/mexitel\\_web/](https://citas.sre.gob.mx/mexitel_web/) or by calling:

1877 MEXITEL  
(1-877-639 4835).

For any other service, please request an appointment by writing to [citas@consulmex.com](mailto:citas@consulmex.com) or by calling: (416) 368-2875 ext. 236

### USEFUL LINKS

- Presidency of Mexico: [presidencia.gob.mx](http://presidencia.gob.mx)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [sre.gob.mx](http://sre.gob.mx)
- Mexican Embassy in Canada: [embamex.sre.gob.mx/canada/](http://embamex.sre.gob.mx/canada/)
- ProMexico: [promexico.gob.mx](http://promexico.gob.mx)
- Mexico Tourism Board: [visitmexico.com](http://visitmexico.com)
- Mexican National Council for Culture and the Arts: [conaculta.gob.mx](http://conaculta.gob.mx); [ecultura.gob.mx](http://ecultura.gob.mx)
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico: [cancham.mx](http://cancham.mx)
- Mexico-Canada: <http://mex-can.sre.gob.mx/>
- Visas and consular services: [consulmex.com](http://consulmex.com)
- Mexican restaurants in Toronto & GTA [\[click here\]](#)
- MEXITEL 1-877-639-4835 <https://mexitel.sre.gob.mx/citas>